



KAA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 5, 2023

Attendees:

Member	Attendance	Member	Attendance
Ray Seif	No	Mark Ostmeyer	Yes
Roger Hrabe	Yes	Brian Palmer	Yes
Corey Keller	Yes	Shelli Swanson	Yes
Scott Wagner	Yes	Matt Jacobs	Yes
Shanna Walker (Academic member)	Yes	Cory Davis	Yes
Brad Parker (BHL)	Yes		

Nonmembers present Courtney Smith, Catherine Magana, Joel Skelley, Travis Lowe, and Brad Waller

- I. Call to order.
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Scott Wagner at 1:30 p.m.
 - b. Introductions of everyone

- II. Approval of the meeting minutes.
 - a. The minutes of the November 2, 2023, meeting were approved. Motioned by Shelli and seconded by Brian and all approved.

- III. Presentation by KDOT Staff
 - a. Scott asked for an update on the KDOT Aviation Director position before the presentation started. Cory Davis reported that there were three candidates that would be interviewed on the 13th and 14th of December.
 - b. Cory Davis reported that there was no formal presentation on the joint taskforce/ Garver findings and this would just be an opportunity to discuss the results and get feedback from KAA. The goal was to communicate and strategize about the best path forward as a unified front. Cory asked the group for any feedback from the group to start the conversation. Scott asked a question if KDOT had a plan for the taskforce report and if there would be a final work product, document, or narrative that went along with what Caleb presented earlier this week. Cory reported there would be a final document explaining the findings and the next steps would be to implement incremental gains on these needs. They understand that \$5 million is not enough to support the aviation industry. KDOT will be working with KAA to identify where KDOT should go with the next incremental step to be on the same page for the amount. Scott asked if the report would be presented to the transportation committee. Cory reported that has not been discussed specifically Joel mentioned the information was just received and that they were not prepared at this time to take it to the transportation committee. He did say that it would be considered as progress through the analysis and determine the correct path forward. Brian Palmer discussed the paths on which this campaign started. First the current need and second the future need

and wanted everyone to understand the goal of both paths. Shelli asked if there was a timeline, what an incremental program would look like, and if it would make the next legislative session. Cory reported that they had just received and were digesting the information. They are looking at their internal structures, finance and funding opportunities and attempting to understand the needs of airports. Cory indicated making the next legislative session might be a hurdle. Joel reported that it was important to have everyone on the same page with the same motivation so that all could support the proposal. He expressed concerns rushing this into legislation and not having everyone on the same page. He reported his thoughts that the Secretary was fully committed to finding a path forward but urged caution to have a fully developed plan before entering legislation. Catherin also seconded what Joel said and ensured everyone that KDOT and the Secretary fully supported a plan to push this through legislation to ensure this does not fall on the Secretary's hands in the future. Shelli thanked KDOT and the Secretary for their efforts and wanted to make sure that KAA had the necessary information to take back to the members, so they understood the timelines. Cory asked about the capacity at the local level to match the funds available and to make it go further such as offering grants at the 70/30 level or was 90/10 all that could be matched at the local level. Matt mentioned that to several communities on large projects 90/10 could be quite steep for them however most of these community's plan for this so typically that have the funds planned match on most projects. Brad Waller, Brian Palmer, Scott Wagner, Corey Keller all agreed that most of these projects are budgeted and planned years before the grant is submitted. Cory reported that they would take this information back to the secretary and this was an initiative that they plan to move forward with. Travis Lowe and Brian Palmer mentioned the importance of being on the same page but moving quickly so that this does not get stalled again. Shelli asked if there was anything KAA could do to assist them and to not hesitate to reach out if they needed assistance with anything. Cory reported that the feedback was helpful and having these types of open conversations on many other projects has been successful.

IV. Recess/ Short Break

V. Legislative Committee Update

- a. Scott asked Travis to give a political debrief. Travis reported that legislation will reconvene on January 8, 2024. This is the second year of a two-year cycle meaning all the legislation that was in play last year that was not passed or vetoed will be active again for this legislative session. There would be a little less than 700 bills that would become active which includes SB272.
- b. BHL Contract-Discussion took place on how to pay for the \$12,500.00 contract. Brad mentioned there are sponsors willing to fund the contract along with KAA funds to assist similar as to the process that occurred in 2023 to fund the legislative effort. Shelli made a motion to approve the contract Matt Jacobs seconded the motion everyone was in favor. Motion approved.

VI. Conference Committee Report

- a. Matt reported that he and Scott met once again with Brad Christopher on the planning committee. Also in attendance were Shelli, Logan, and Danny Jones who is president of SCCAAAE. They declined our counteroffer based on some previous experiences which were not successful. Matt made a recommendation to the group to host our own KAA conference in 2024 with a fall date. The cities that sent proposals were Topeka, Garden City, and Lawrence with Topeka hosting the 2024 conference. Corey made a motion to approve Matt's recommendation to host a fall conference in Topeka. Brian Palmer seconded, and all were in favor. Motion approved.

VII. Consider of Economic Lifeline Membership

- a. Shelli reported that KAA was once a member of the Economic Lifeline and made a motion to renew that membership within the \$500.00 range. Corey seconded the motion everyone was in favor of. Motion approved.

VIII. Other Committee Reports (as needed)

- a. Shanna reported that there were four applicants for the scholarship funds. Shanna reported they would be meeting on Friday to decide the winners.
- b. Matt reported that the membership committee met recently there were some action items to address the membership dues renewal notices went out to the members. Matt mentioned adding more bullet points to reference of what benefits the members \$150 goes towards with KAA.

IX. Other Business

- a. Brian reported that Northern Flyer Alliance reached out several times for a letter of support supporting their efforts to support to get the link for the Heartland Flyer from Wichita to Dallas. Brian would send the letter from the Mayor of Ponca City who is making the request to the board.

Scott requested a motion to adjourn. Shelli made the motion, Corey seconded, and all were in favor.